

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARKS OFFICE

APPLICANT : Ralf WIEDEMANN et al.
 APPL. NUMBER : 10/560,076
 FILED : December 9, 2005
 FOR : AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINE DETERGENT
 DISPENSING DEVICE
 ART UNIT : 1746

October 3, 2006

VIA EFS (ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM)

REQUEST FOR CORRECTED FILING RECEIPT

Sir:

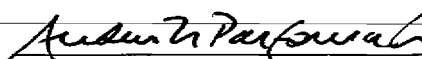
A *Corrected Filing Receipt* (copy attached) for the above-captioned application has been received by Applicant's attorney. Upon review of this document errors were noted. The Patent Office is respectfully requested to make the following corrections and to issue a new and correct *Filing Receipt*:

On the *Corrected Filing Receipt*, the number of total claims is shown as 28. The correct number is 39.

Also, the number of independent claims is shown as 1. The correct number is 3.

In support of the above, we attach a copy of the Preliminary Amendment filed concurrently with the patent application on December 9, 2005. Please issue a *Corrected Filing Receipt* at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,
 NORRIS, McLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.



Andrew N. Parfomak
 Reg. No. 32,431

Norris, McLaughlin & Marcus P.A.
 875 Third Avenue, 18th Floor
 New York, New York 10022
 (212) 808-0700

PLEASE CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCIES UP TO
 \$300 OR CREDIT ANY EXCESS IN THE FEES
 DUE WITH THIS DOCUMENT TO OUR
 DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO.
 14-1263.

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper and every
 paper referred to therein as being attached
 are being transmitted to the commissioner for Patents
 via EFS (electronic Filing System) on the date indicated
 below.

Date: 10/3/06

By: 
 Kimberly Buttrick



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 United States Patent and Trademark Office
 Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
 www.uspto.gov

| APPL NO. | FILING OR 371 (c) DATE | ART UNIT | FIL FEE REC'D | ATTY. DOCKET NO | DRAWINGS | TOT CLMS | IND CLMS |
|------------|---------------------------|----------|---------------|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 10/560,076 | 01/26/2006 | 1746 | 3390 | 102792-507(11270P4 US) <i>ANP</i> | 10 | <i>28</i> | <i>39</i> |

27389
 NORRIS, MCLAUGHLIN & MARCUS
 875 THIRD AVE
 18TH FLOOR
 NEW YORK, NY 10022

CONFIRMATION NO. 1082

CORRECTED FILING RECEIPT



OC000000020364931

Date Mailed: 09/08/2006

Receipt is acknowledged of this regular Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please mail to the Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria Va 22313-1450. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).

Applicant(s)

Ralf Wiedemann, Ludwigshafen, GERMANY;
 Judith Preuschen, Ludwigshafen, GERMANY;

Assignment For Published Patent Application

Reckitt Benckiser N.V., Hoofddorp, NETHERLANDS

Power of Attorney: The patent practitioners associated with Customer Number 27389.

Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

This application is a 371 of PCT/GB04/02479 06/09/2004

Foreign Applications

UNITED KINGDOM 0313296.6 06/10/2003

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 03/06/2006

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is **US10/560,076**

Projected Publication Date: Not Applicable

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

Title

Automatic washing machine detergent dispensing device

Preliminary Class

134

PROTECTING YOUR INVENTION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Since the rights granted by a U.S. patent extend only throughout the territory of the United States and have no effect in a foreign country, an inventor who wishes patent protection in another country must apply for a patent in a specific country or in regional patent offices. Applicants may wish to consider the filing of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). An international (PCT) application generally has the same effect as a regular national patent application in each PCT-member country. The PCT process **simplifies** the filing of patent applications on the same invention in member countries, but **does not result** in a grant of "an international patent" and does not eliminate the need of applicants to file additional documents and fees in countries where patent protection is desired.

Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

Applicants also are advised that in the case of inventions made in the United States, the Director of the USPTO must issue a license before applicants can apply for a patent in a foreign country. The filing of a U.S. patent application serves as a request for a foreign filing license. The application's filing receipt contains further information and guidance as to the status of applicant's license for foreign filing.

Applicants may wish to consult the USPTO booklet, "General Information Concerning Patents" (specifically, the section entitled "Treaties and Foreign Patents") for more information on timeframes and deadlines for filing foreign patent applications. The guide is available either by contacting the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199, or it can be viewed on the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/doc/general/index.html>.

For information on preventing theft of your intellectual property (patents, trademarks and copyrights), you may wish to consult the U.S. Government website, <http://www.stopfakes.gov>. Part of a Department of Commerce initiative, this website includes self-help "toolkits" giving innovators guidance on how to protect intellectual property in specific countries such as China, Korea and Mexico. For questions regarding patent enforcement issues, applicants may call the U.S. Government hotline at 1-866-999-HALT (1-866-999-4158).

**LICENSE FOR FOREIGN FILING UNDER
Title 35, United States Code, Section 184
Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15**

GRANTED

The applicant has been granted a license under 35 U.S.C. 184, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" followed by a date appears on this form. Such licenses are issued in all applications where the conditions for issuance of a license have been met, regardless of whether or not a license may be required as set forth in 37 CFR 5.15. The scope and limitations of this license are set forth in 37 CFR 5.15(a) unless an earlier license has been issued under 37 CFR 5.15(b). The license is subject to revocation upon written notification. The date indicated is the effective date of the license, unless an earlier license of similar scope has been granted under 37 CFR 5.13 or 5.14.

This license is to be retained by the licensee and may be used at any time on or after the effective date thereof unless it is revoked. This license is automatically transferred to any related applications(s) filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d). This license is not retroactive.

The grant of a license does not in any way lessen the responsibility of a licensee for the security of the subject matter as imposed by any Government contract or the provisions of existing laws relating to espionage and the national security or the export of technical data. Licensees should apprise themselves of current regulations especially with respect to certain countries, of other agencies, particularly the Office of Defense Trade Controls, Department of State (with respect to Arms, Munitions and Implements of War (22 CFR 121-128)); the Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce (15 CFR parts 730-774); the Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of Treasury (31 CFR Parts 500+) and the Department of Energy.

NOT GRANTED

No license under 35 U.S.C. 184 has been granted at this time, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" DOES NOT appear on this form. Applicant may still petition for a license under 37 CFR 5.12, if a license is desired before the expiration of 6 months from the filing date of the application. If 6 months has lapsed from the filing date of this application and the licensee has not received any indication of a secrecy order under 35 U.S.C. 181, the licensee may foreign file the application pursuant to 37 CFR 5.15(b).

Attorney File Ref: 102792-507 / 11270P4

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Ralf WIEDEMANN, et al.
Serial No.: -- to be assigned --
Filed: 09.December.2005
Examiner: -- to be assigned --
Art Group: -- to be assigned --
Title: AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINE DETERGENT DISPENSING
DEVICE

Mail Stop: PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313 - 1450

09.December.2005

Dear Sir;

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This paper accompanies the application filing papers under 35 USC 371 of
PCT/GB2004/002479.

Prior to calculating the claims fee, without prejudice or traverse please amend the claims
of the application to read as indicated following.

In the Claims:

- 1.(original) A portable automatic dishwasher detergent dispensing device comprising a body enclosing a detergent or detergent additive, sufficient for a plurality of wash cycles, the body having an inlet aperture to allow wash liquor to contact the detergent and an outlet aperture to allow the detergent loaded wash liquor to exit the body and means to close the one or both of the apertures at or before the start of the dishwasher rinse cycle.
- 2.(original) A portable automatic dishwasher detergent dispensing device comprising a body enclosing a detergent or detergent additive, sufficient for a plurality of wash cycles, the body having an outlet aperture to allow the detergent to exit the body and means to close the outlet aperture at or before the start of the dishwasher rinse cycle.
- 3.(currently amended) A device according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the closing means reacts to a change in the conditions of the dishwasher during the dishwasher washing cycle.
4. (original) A device according to claim 3, wherein the closing means reacts to a change in temperature during the dishwasher washing cycle.
5. (currently amended) A device according to claim 4, wherein the closing means comprises a thermal activator such as a thermal bimetal (~~including conventional thermal bimetals and thermal bimetal-snap elements~~), a wax activator or a shape memory alloy.
6. (currently amended) A device according to claim 5, wherein the thermal bimetal snap element moves a plug between a position in which at least one of the inlet or

~~and/or~~ outlet apertures is closed to a position in which at least one of the inlet or
~~and/or~~ outlet apertures is open.

- 7.(currently amended) A device according to claim 6, wherein the thermal bimetal snap element has a higher snap temperature of between 30 to 50°C, ~~more preferably between 35 to 45°C and most preferably about 40°C.~~
8. (currently amended) A device according to claim 6 ~~or 7~~, wherein the thermal bimetal snap element has a lower snap temperature of about 20 to 35°C, ~~more preferably between 23 to 27°C and most preferably about 25°C.~~
9. (currently amended) A device according to claim 5, ~~6, 7 or 8~~, wherein the thermal bimetal snap element is in the form of a strip.
- 10.(currently amended) A device according to claim 9, wherein a first portion of the thermal bimetal snap element is attached to or / liases with the device and a second potion of the thermal bimetal snap element is attached to or / liases with the plug.
11. (currently amended) A device according to claim 5, ~~6, 7 or 8~~, wherein the thermal bimetal snap element is in the form of a two dimensional shape.
- 12.(original) A device according to claim 11, wherein the thermal bimetal snap element is retained in the device such that one or more of the peripheries of the thermal bimetal snap element interacts with the plug and the device, moving the plug relative to the device.
- 13.(original) A device according to claim 12, wherein the thermal bimetal snap element is mounted on a plate in the device.

- 14.(original) A device according to claim 13, wherein the mounting means includes a rod extending from the plug which intersects the thermal bimetal snap element.
15. (currently amended) A device according to claim 14, wherein the rod has a terminal flange to retain the thermal bimetal snap element or / interact therewith.
- 16.(currently amended) A device according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the closing means comprises a plurality of thermal bimetals.
- 17.(currently amended) A device according to claim 16, wherein the device comprises a primary thermal bimetal which affects the interaction of a plug with the inlet or /outlet aperture and a secondary thermal bimetal which affects the operation of the primary thermal bimetal.
- 18.(original) A device according to claim 17, wherein the primary thermal bimetal is a conventional thermal bimetal having an activation temperature of about 40°C.
- 19.(currently amended) A device according to claim 17 ~~or 18~~, wherein the secondary thermal bimetal comprises a thermal bimetallic snap element having a higher snap temperature of about 40°C and a lower snap temperature of about 25°C.
- 20.(currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein the closing means reacts to the presence of water / humidity in the dishwasher.
- 21.(currently amended) A device according to claim 20, wherein the closing means swells upon contact with water causing the closing of one or both of the inlet ~~and~~ / or outlet apertures.

- 22.(currently amended) A device according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 21~~, wherein the device comprises a auxiliary chamber disposed adjacent the main body of the device external to the inlet or ~~and~~ outlet apertures.
- 23.(original) A device according to claim 22, wherein the auxiliary chamber comprises a closure means which associates with an access opening.
- 24.(original) A device according to claim 23, wherein the closure means comprises a thermal bimetal.
- 25.(currently amended) A device according to claim 22, wherein the device is for use in the dispense of a liquid and/or powder ~~liquid/powder~~ detergent formulation.
- 26.(original) A device according to claim 25, wherein the auxiliary chamber access opening closure means operates in synchronisation with the closure means of the outlet of the main body.
- 27.(original) A device according to claim 26, wherein a linkage is disposed between the auxiliary closure means and the main body closure means.
- 28.(original) A device according to claim 27, wherein the device comprises a second linkage accessible by a user from the exterior of the device.
- 29.(currently amended) A device according to claim 1 ~~in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 28~~, wherein the device comprises a second means to control the amount of wash liquor which enters the inlet aperture.
- 30.(currently amended) A device according to ~~in accordance with~~ claim 29, wherein the means comprises a collecting funnel.

- 31.(currently amended) A device according to ~~in accordance with~~ claim 30,
wherein the collecting funnel has a drainage opening in its collecting portion.
- 32.(currently amended) A device according to claim 1 ~~in accordance with any one
of claims 1 to 31~~, wherein the body comprises a water-resistant or / water
insoluble material.
- 33.(currently amended) A device according to ~~in accordance with~~ claim 32,
wherein the body comprises a channel which is in communication with the inlet
aperture.
- 34.(currently amended) A device according to ~~in accordance with~~ claim 33,
wherein the channel has a bar of detergent disposed therein with the detergent bar
completely filling at least a portion of the channel across the entire bore thereof.
- 35.(currently amended) A device according to ~~in accordance with~~ claim 34,
wherein the channel has a uniform bore, in terms of the cross sectional area of the
bore, along its length / at least along the portion filled by the detergent bar.
- 36.(currently amended) A device according to ~~in accordance with~~ claim 35,
wherein the channel is a tube.
- 37.(original) A portable automatic dishwasher detergent additive dispensing device
comprising a body enclosing a detergent additive, sufficient for a plurality of
wash cycles, the body having an inlet aperture to allow wash liquor to contact the
detergent and an outlet aperture to allow the detergent loaded wash liquor to exit
the body and means to open one or both of the apertures at or after the start of the
dishwasher rinse cycle.

38.(currently amended) A device according to ~~in accordance with~~ claim 37,
wherein the detergent additive is a anti-spotting composition or a glass corrosion
prevention composition.

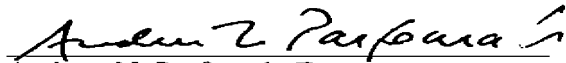
39.(currently amended) The use of an automatic washing machine detergent
dispensing device according to claim 1 ~~in accordance with any one of claims 1 to~~
~~38.~~

40.(cancelled)

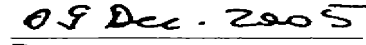
Remarks:

The amendments entered to the claims are not intended to disclaim any patentable subject matter, and are to be entered without prejudice or traverse. The amendments entered address and remove multiple dependencies from the claims of the parent PCT application or to otherwise recast the claims into a form more amenable to US patent practice.

Respectfully Submitted;



Andrew N. Parfomak, Esq.
Reg.No. 32,431
Norris, McLaughlin & Marcus, PC
875 Third Avenue, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10022



Date:

Tel: 212 808-0700

C:\ANPCMB\102792\507\PreliminaryAmendment.doc